

REMARKS

Claim Status

The original application as filed included claims 1-23. The currently pending Office Action was issued on June 30, 2005, rejecting claims 1-8, 12-19, and 23. Claims 9-11 and 20-22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but were held allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit this Amendment and Response, after which claims 1-9, 11-19, and 21-23 will remain pending in this application, with claims 1, 12, and 23 as independent claims.

Claim Objections

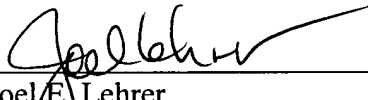
The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 9-11 and 20-22 is noted with appreciation. Applicants have redrafted claims 9 and 20 in independent form, incorporating the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and therefore submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the issuance of the claims in due course. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at the number listed below to discuss any outstanding issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

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